



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

JUDICIAL PROCEDURES COMMISSION

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration/500 West Temple Street, Room B-50/Los Angeles, California 90012 / (213) 974-1431

MINUTES OF THE 701st MEETING OF THE JUDICIAL PROCEDURES COMMISSION

The 701st meeting of the Los Angeles County Judicial Procedures Commission was held on May 14, 2009, in Room 140 of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California. A list of those present follows:

MEMBERS PRESENT

Paul A. Jacobs, Chair
Clifton Albright
Nelson L. Atkins
Gary L. Barr
Andrew Friedman
William J. Galloway
Neal Millard
David C. Voss, Jr.
Dennis P. Zine

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Ann Jackson, Vice Chair
Bertrum CeDillos
Annie Y. Huang

MEMBERS UNEXCUSED

Sylvia Scott-Hayes

MEMBERS

Paul A. Jacobs
Chair

Ann Jackson
Vice Chair

Nelson L. Atkins
Clifton Albright
Annie Y. Huang
Bertrum CeDillos
Andrew Friedman
Gary L. Barr
William J. Galloway
Neal S. Millard
Sylvia Scott-Hayes
David C. Voss, Jr.
Dennis P. Zine

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Heather Aubry, LA City Attorney's Office
Laura Green, Public Defender's Office
Zoe Venhuizen, Superior Court

COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

James Endman, Superior Court

GUEST(S)

Karen Blank, Superior Court
Cliff Ruff, Los Angeles Council, District No. 3

STAFF

Rhonda Rangel, Commission Staff
Martha Arana, Commission Staff
Audra Galang, Commission Staff

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Jacobs called the 701st regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Judicial Procedures Commission (JPC) to order at 12:25 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Laura Green, Ex Officio Member representing the Public Defender.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 12, 2009

Due to a lack of a quorum, approval of the minutes of February 12, 2009, was tabled for later in the meeting.

Later in the meeting, a quorum was established, and on motion of Commissioner Albright, seconded by Commissioner Galloway, and unanimously carried, the minutes of the meeting of February 12, 2009, were approved as submitted.

STAFF REPORT

Martha Arana, staff, reported the following:

- A scroll presentation by the Board of Supervisors for JPC's 700th meeting anniversary is scheduled for July 7, 2009. Commissioners were encouraged to confirm their attendance. As the day of this event approaches, staff will provide Commissioners with more information.
- Board mandated Cultural Diversity/Sexual Harassment instructor-led training is available at the KHHOA on June 8th, 18th and 22nd. Commissioners were reminded to coordinate with staff.
- Board mandated AB1234 Ethics Training is available online through the County's Saba Learning Net. Commissioners may contact staff to coordinate online training.
- Based on a Board motion to reduce paper-based correspondence, and favor a more user-friendly internet system, effective January 1, 2009, the Executive Office now provides agendas and minutes by e-mail.

(Commissioners Andrew Friedman and Gary L. Barr joined the meeting.)

DISCUSSION ON UPCOMING ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chair Jacobs reported that he is not available to serve another term as Chair of the Commission, and that due to Vice Chair Jackson's growing commitments, she will not be available to serve another term. He advised that all Ex Officio members are eligible to hold office, and that Commissioners advise their colleagues if they are interested in running.

(Commissioner David C. Voss, Jr. joined the meeting)

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

UPDATE ON THE SAFE CHILD CUSTODY EXCHANGE PROGRAM (SCCEP)

Chair Jacobs provided the following background information and present status on the SCCEP:

- Commission members have been actively meeting with Supervisor Antonovich's staff to resurrect the Safe Child Custody Exchange Program (SCCEP), in the 5th District, which was originally a pilot program under the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Woman.
- A meeting was held with Deputy Helen Berberian, 5th District, and the Director of Friends of the Family (FOF). FOF was founded in 1972, and has been the lead agency in the San Fernando Valley that provides family support. Commissioners Neil, Nelson, Dieringer, and he were present at this meeting. Ms. Berberian agreed to attempt finding an on-going program that is currently funded, or has the potential to be funded, that would incorporate the SCCEP.
- Since this last meeting, Ms. Berberian found that there is a surplus in funds generated through AB2944. Through AB2944, the State assesses a \$4.00 fee for the issuance of birth certificates. Revenue collected through AB2944 is allocated to counties for purposes of addressing child abuse needs; this could be a potential source of funding for the SCCEP.
- FOF has submitted a proposal for funding to the Board of Supervisors that includes two children services related programs. The first is a program called Family Visitation Centers which has been very effective in aiding family unifications between out-placed children and their birth parents. These visitations are held in community supportive sites such as the local church. The second program would be the Safe Child Custody Exchange Program – a program designed to assist parents in the transfer of their children from one parent to the other for visitation and custody. Local Police/Sheriff Stations that would facilitate the exchanges have been identified. FOF will be the agency that will provide professional staff to support both programs. The cost to run these two programs is estimated at \$100,000. Currently, FOF is seeking funding for two years. Funding secured will be used for program administration (i.e. staffing, training personnel, equipping spaces, and to purchase materials and supplies needed to run the programs).
- AB2944 monies are also available for the Third Supervisorial District. FOF, which is centered in District 3, has prepared a proposal for this district. FOF is confident that the program costs to administer the SCCEP for the Third District can also be done with \$100,000.

- Proposals for programs in Districts 3 and 5 have gone through various Committee approvals. Most importantly, the Los Angeles County Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN) has provided positive support for the proposals in both districts. ICAN will make a recommendation to the Board in support for adoption of the programs, one of which is the SCCEP. ICAN is a council set up by the State in each County for the purposes of monitoring child abuse programs.
- At this time, Supervisorial Districts 1 and 2 have decided to use AB2944 monies for other children services programs. District 4 has not made a decision.
- FOF will seek Board approval to enter into a contract with the County to carry out the two children programs, one of which will be the SCCEP. Tentative dates for Board approval of the two children services programs are June 9th, 16th, or 23rd.

After discussion, on motion of Chair Jacobs, seconded by Commissioner Atkins, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved to go on the record, before the Board of Supervisors, supporting the approval of the FOF contract with the County to carry out the two children services programs, one of which will be the SCCEP.

The Commission authorized Ex Officio member Bea Dieringer and Chair Paul A. Jacobs to speak before the Board, on behalf of the approval.

DIVERSITY ON THE BENCH INITIATIVE

No report was provided.

PUBLIC GUARDIAN PROGRAM

In the absence of Dr. Margaret Little, Ph.D., Ms. Karen Blank, Probate Attorney, Los Angeles County Superior Court, gave a brief overview of the Public Guardian Program, and reported that the Court has a fiduciary obligation to care for the elders. She noted that Los Angeles County has the largest Probate Court in the nation, and currently has approximately 9,000 conservatorship applications pending.

She further added that the Court has been working with the Commission to find funding for the Donate to a Needy Conserved Elder (DANCE) Program, a program that would greatly benefit elder individuals by providing them with small gifts. She noted that the Court would be able to get the program fully established with seed money in the amount of \$10,000. The DANCE Program would be administered by Wise & Healthy Aging, a nonprofit organization, under its Advocates for Conserved Elders (ACE) Program.

Commissioner Voss thanked Dr. Little for providing him with a written proposal for the DANCE Program. Commissioner Voss added that he has submitted the DANCE proposal to Rotary District 5280, and is waiting for potential funding by the Club. Commissioner Voss requested that the Commission be provided with conservatees' *Wish Lists* that would enable Commissioners to better identify funding sources.

MATTERS NOT ON THE POSTED AGENDA (TO BE PRESENTED AND PLACED ON A FUTURE AGENDA)

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion of Commissioner Aubry, seconded by Commissioner Albright, and unanimously carried, the 701st meeting of the Judicial Procedures Commission adjourned at 1:25 p.m.